

Friis, John

From: laura.mesite@huskymail.uconn.edu
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:55 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern:

I graduated from the ECA music department in 2007 and am now pursuing a degree in music performance on horn. Thanks to ECA, I had an advantage over my peers and was able to coast through music theory, skip a level of ear training, and was placed in the highest level ensembles. I was able to pick up another degree, cognitive science, as a result of this advantage, as well. The teachers at ECA are remarkable. Roy Wiseman, my chamber orchestra teacher from ECA, teaches at Wesleyan with my current private instructor. If he's certified to teach at the college level, why isn't he considered good enough for an arts high school? He's teaching gifted students in a field that they excel in. College level teachers are acceptable if not preferred to this type of setting. If this were just a regular high school I could understand that the teachers should be certified to teach in order to make sure that they can teach in the appropriate manner for general learning, but the students at ECA have to audition to be accepted, so they are a special case. ECA is no ordinary high school. It's better. I wasn't challenged at my local high school. I graduated third in my class with very little effort while attending two schools, dancing, playing in orchestras, and practicing. I took any AP class that I could, but the system still failed me. ECA was the only place that I felt got it right. As far as I'm concerned, with "No Child Left Behind" and all of that, we're already dumbing our schools down enough.

The gap between public and private schools is widening thanks to legislation such as this. All that will result of such legislation is that more private school students will attend conservatories and be able to become musicians, while public school students will be stripped of another opportunity and denied the American dream. (I was accepted to conservatories but chose not to attend in order to pursue an academic major in addition to my music major.) Save ECA and keep the American Dream alive for the gifted young artists in New Haven county that can't afford private school.

Sincerely,

Laura Mesite